

testimony from Deputy Secretary of Defense Paul Wolfowitz on commitments of the United States Armed Forces throughout the world. The vote on the Pomeroy substitute was called shortly after I had asked Secretary Wolfowitz a series of questions pertaining to the search for weapons of mass destruction in Iraq and rotation schedules and living arrangements for our troops who are presently serving there.

Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote No. 287, the Pomeroy substitute, and accordingly, I would like to request unanimous consent to enter this statement into the record at the appropriate location.

DEATH TAX REPEAL PERMANENCY ACT OF 2003

SPEECH OF

HON. PHILIP M. CRANE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 18, 2003

Mr. CRANE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 8, the Death Tax Repeal Permanency Act of 2003, and I commend my friend from Washington Mrs. Dunn for being such a strong advocate for this legislation.

The United States is the land of opportunity, encouraging free enterprise and rewarding entrepreneurs. The estate and gift tax runs contrary, to this basic philosophy. When I came to Congress over 30 years ago, I set out to eliminate the death tax, which is simply unfair, outdated and penalizes our families, farmers and small business owners.

According to recent statistics, one-third of small business owners today will have to sell outright or liquidate a part of their firm to pay death taxes. In addition, half of those who must liquidate to pay their death taxes will each have to eliminate 30 or more jobs. In addition, small business owners that insure against such an outcome face the burden of paying onerous premiums. This is hard-earned money that otherwise could be used to expand their business. We must put an end to it once and for all.

Death tax repeal was included as part of the 2001 Bush tax cut. Under that legislation, the death tax phases out over a period of year, and is eliminated completely in 2010. Unfortunately, due to the arcane procedures of the Senate, the provisions in the 2001 bill sunset in 2011, or 10 years after enactment. Therefore, we need to take action now to make the repeal permanent.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank small business and family owned business groups like the National Automobile Dealers Association for tirelessly fighting to end this punitive and harmful tax. They have been powerful and influential advocates in this effort.

I ask unanimous consent that the following letter from the National Automobile Dealers Association urging repeal of the Death Tax be included in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

NATIONAL AUTOMOBILE
DEALERS ASSOCIATION,
McLean, VA, June 18, 2003.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: On behalf of the National Automobile Dealers Association (NADA), the nearly 20,000 franchised new car dealer members of NADA, and their more than one million employees, we are writing

to urge you to vote yes on H.R. 8, to eliminate the estate tax once and for all.

The majority of NADA's members are small family-owned and community-based businesses. Most assets of automobile dealers are not liquid. A dealer's capital is invested in the land under the dealership, buildings housing showrooms, vehicle repair equipment, and other facilities. Dealers also need substantial working capital to finance new and used-car inventory. Thus, for dealers, the death tax can cripple or kill the family-owned business since they are left with few options but to sell the business or incur substantial debt to pay the tax.

In providing for the elimination of the estate tax in H.R. 1836 in 2001, Congress clearly recognized the inequity and unfairness of estate taxes. As it was noted at the time, there is something very wrong in our system when a small businessman or businesswoman spends a lifetime building a business, paying taxes, providing jobs and serving the community only to have the government step in at their death to collect another tax. In enacting H.R. 1836, Congress and the President wisely realized that death should not trigger a tax. Only when assets are sold should there be a taxable event.

The question now before the House of Representatives is whether to continue that wise policy beyond 2010. NADA and its dealer members and their employees firmly believe that supporting H.R. 8, making estate tax repeal permanent and postponing taxes until assets are sold is critical to the preservation of family-owned and community-based businesses like automobile dealerships.

Preserving these businesses is crucial to the health of the national economy and essential to the economic well being of local communities. These businesses provide the majority of new job growth in this country. Very often, family-owned businesses are central to the economic vitality of local communities, providing good livelihoods for millions of working Americans.

NADA respectfully urges you to vote yes on H.R. 8. This vote is about preserving family-owned businesses in local communities across this great nation. Thank you for your consideration of our views.

TRIBUTE TO KEITH OWEN

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise before this body of Congress and this nation to pay tribute to an outstanding educator from my district. Keith Owen of Pueblo is the recipient of the 2003 Colorado National Distinguished Principal of the Year award from the Colorado Association of School Executives. Keith's peers selected him based on his leadership, respect from his school, and community service.

Keith has worked as an educator for 10 years and has served as the principal of Beulah Heights Elementary in Pueblo since 1999. Since taking the helm at the school, fourth grade reading scores have skyrocketed. Their performance on the Colorado Student Assessment Program, CSAP, have risen from 50 percent to 86 percent in only three years. The difference was so dramatic, Keith received an invitation to travel to the White House where President Bush and Secretary of Education Rod Paige cited Beulah Heights Elementary for its achievements.

Mr. Speaker, because of Keith Owen's exemplary leadership, the student's at Beulah Heights Elementary School have a greater chance of success in school and in life. Keith has made Pueblo and the State of Colorado proud, and I am truly honored to recognize him here today. Congratulations, Keith, and good luck with your future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO THE CITY OF STAMFORD, CONNECTICUT

HON. CHRISTOPHER SHAYS

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2003

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to congratulate the City of Stamford, CT, which was recently ranked the fifth safest city in the country and the second safest city in the Northeast. Perhaps even more remarkable is that recent FBI statistics indicate Stamford led the Nation in reducing crime during 2002, recording an amazing 22 percent decrease.

This achievement is all the more impressive because Stamford was able to reduce crime despite having a smaller police force. This extraordinary accomplishment is a testament to the dedication of Chief Louis DeCarlo and the entire police force, as well as the excellent leadership of Mayor Dan Malloy and the City Government.

Stamford has led our region and Nation by implementing creative measures to reduce crime, including the use of community policing. The City also sent School Resource Officers to schools where they were able to effectively connect with the City's youth.

I also congratulate the people of Stamford who have worked so hard to make their hometown a great place to raise their children, to work and to visit.

As a former longtime resident of Stamford, I can attest to how wonderful a place it is to live. Stamford's tremendous potential is reinforced by its designation as one of the safest cities in America.

IN HONOR OF LAMBDA THETA PHI, CELEBRATING ITS 2003 NATIONAL BROTHERHOOD CONFERENCE

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2003

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Lambda Theta Phi Fraternidad Latina for its continued advocacy and celebration of Latino culture. Lambda Theta Phi will be holding its 2003 National Brotherhood Conference on June 20-22nd at the Wyndham Hotel in Newark, NJ.

Founded in 1975 at Kean University in Union, NJ, Lambda Theta Phi has grown from 14 founding members to over 85 national chapters. It is the first and only nationally recognized Latino Greek letter fraternity in the United States.

For over 25 years, Lambda Theta Phi has played a leading role in building unity among Latinos and provided a critical support network as young Latinos pursue their academic and